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of "housekeepers" and actors. "The superiority of the Globe Company over all the others was acknowledged in the days of James and Charles, and to-day stands out as one of the most impressive facts in the history of the early drama."

"The book is throughout the result of a firsthand examination of original sources," says Professor Adams, "and represents an independent interpretation of historical evidence." It is profusely illustrated with plans and cuts from old maps and old manuscripts which make clear in every case the exact situation of the particular playhouse under discussion. Involving as it does such a mass of detail, the book is remarkably clear in its arrangement and method of presentation and refreshingly free from dogmatism, pedantry, and the wearisome accumulation of statistics.

THE NATIONAL BUDGET SYSTEM. By Charles Wallace Collins. New York: The Macmillan Company.

This work is an attempt to show what the budget system is, and, in order to do so, the author sets forth in review the theory and practice of the budget systems in the leading states of the world. Next in order he discusses the proposed application of the system to the United States Government and the adjustments, short of a constitutional amendment, necessary to its adoption in our country. The book is written for the general reader. The descriptions of the plan and workings of the budget systems in foreign states are excellently done, as are also the detailed accounts of the preparation and ratification of financial measures in the United States. In the United States Government the spending of the money voted by Congress and the auditing of the accounts are completely in the hands of the Executive, and in these respects our system is unique. The author proposes that the President of the United States shall prepare and present to Congress an itemized programme of necessary expenditures for the following year, and that this programme shall be ratified by Congress without the privilege of amendment so as to increase the amount proposed. His proposal does not seek to change the principle of presidential responsibility and control, but suggests that some independent means of audit should be provided. A

large part of this proposed scheme could be accomplished, the author thinks, by drying up the Committee on Ways and Means, so that it would be functionless, and by allowing the powers of approval or disapproval of the Presidential Budget to devolve on the House Committee of the Whole. To the reviewer it seems difficult to escape the conclusion that the proposed budgetary system would have little to commend it, except that it would make easy the work of both the President and Congress. Under such a plan Congress could hardly do anything except give its approval of anything the President might propose to it. The only alternative would be revolution by force. H. H. S. AIMES.

OFFICIAL LETTER BOOKS OF W. C. C. CLAIBORNE, 1801-1816. Edited by Dunbar Rowland. Six volumes. Printed for the State Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi. 1917.

These six volumes, averaging some four hundred pages each, contain the letters, messages, proclamations, and other state papers of W. C. C. Claiborne, who was commissioned governor of the Mississippi Territory in 1801 by President Jefferson, and two years later made governor-general and intendant of the Province of Louisiana. Besides Governor Claiborne's correspondence and papers, the collection includes a great many valuable letters, reports, and other papers from his correspondence, pertaining not only to the administration of the great territory along the lower Mississippi, but to the economic and social life of its inhabitants as well. Dr. Rowland, the well-known historian of the lower Mississippi Valley, and director of the Department of Archives and History of the State of Mississippi, has edited these volumes, added many footnotes by way of explanation, and attached a good index to the last volume. The only complaint we have to make is that Dr. Rowland has not written an introduction to these volumes, pointing out what was most valuable and most significant in this mass of material. No one is better qualified to do this than himself. As to the importance of the subject, all students will agree with Dr. Rowland when he says that the purchase of Louisiana is one of the great turning-points in American history. It was an event which